areas have been able to take advantage of programmes of Sports Authority of India. More than forty prominent sportspersons have excelled in the disciplines of Athletics, Archery, Hockey, Boxing, Basket Ball, Foot Ball, Gymnastics etc. in the recent past.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

REGP in Uttar Pradesh

1696. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established Agro and Rural Industries in Uttar Pradesh under the Rural Employment Generation Programme during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the funds that have been allocated for this purpose and the steps taken so far to implement this programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Government does not set up units under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP). Under this Programme, units are set up by entrepreneurs by availing of margin money assistance from the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and loan from public sector scheduled commercial banks and selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc.

(b) In the State of Uttar Pradesh, 1677 units were set up in 2002-03 and 2134 units in 2003-04 under the REGP.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Margin money assistance of Rs. 2293.52 lakh and Rs. 3415.18 lakh were released during 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively to the units set up under the REGP in Uttar Pradesh. Further, the KVIC regularly reviews the progress of implementation of projects under the REGP with the banks, takes necessary steps to expedite the release of financial assistance and also provides assistance through entrepreneurship development programmes, awareness camps, market development, etc.